

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request further examination and reconsideration in view of the instant response. The claims remaining in the present application are Claims 1, 2, 6-14, 17-22 and 25-28. Claims 1-27 are rejected. Claims 3-5, 15, 16, 23 and 24 are cancelled herein without prejudice. Claims 1, 14 and 21 are amended herein. New Claim 28 has been added. No new matter has been added.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 4, 5, 15, 16, 23 and 24 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have amended independent Claim 1 to include the embodiment recited in Claim 4, have amended independent Claim 14 to include the embodiment recited in Claim 15, and have amended independent Claim 21 to include the embodiment of Claim 24.

Moreover, Applicants have amended Claim 1 to include an embodiment of Claim 3 from which Claim 4 is dependent. Applicants note that Claim 1 has not been amended to include the embodiment recited in intervening Claim 2. Applicants respectfully submit that such amendment is not necessary, as the statement for the reasons of allowance of the instant Office Action (page 10, section 9) does not indicate that the embodiment recited in Claim 2 is a necessary condition of allowance. Furthermore, Applicants note that the herein submitted amendment of

independent Claim 1 is consistent with the amendments of independent Claims 14 and 21. For instance, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner to Claim 22 from which allowable Claims 23 and 24 do not depend.

Furthermore, Applicants submit that new Claim 28 is directed toward an embodiment similar to Claim 1. Specifically, Claim 28 includes a computer-readable medium having stored therein the method of Claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 28 is also allowable.

REJECTIONS

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) – Claims 1-3, 6, 9, 10, 13 and 14

The instant Office Action states that Claims 1-3, 6, 9, 10, 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,956,088 by Shen et al., hereinafter referred to as Shen. As amended herein, independent Claim 1 is amended to include Claim 1 to include the embodiment recited in allowable Claim 4, and independent Claim 14 is amended to include the embodiment recited in allowable Claim 15, and thus independent Claims 1 and 14 are now in condition for allowance. Moreover, Claim 3 is cancelled herein without prejudice. Accordingly, Claims 2, 6, 9, 10 and 13 are also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim, and hence a discussion of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is moot at this time.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) – Claims 21 and 22

The instant Office Action states that Claims 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shen. As amended herein, independent Claim 21 is amended to include the embodiment recited in allowable Claim 24, and thus is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Claim 22 is also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim, and hence a discussion of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is moot at this time.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) – Claims 7, 8, 17, 18, 25 and 26

The instant Office Action states that Claims 7, 8, 17, 18, 25 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shen in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,072,903 by Maki et al., hereinafter referred to as Maki. As presented above, independent Claims 1, 14 and 21 are allowable. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 7, 8, 17, 18, 25 and 26 are also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim, and hence a discussion of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is moot at this time.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) – Claims 11 and 27

The instant Office Action states that Claims 11 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shen in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,928,186 by Ratnakar. As presented above, independent Claims 1 and 21 are allowable. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 11 and 27 are also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim, and hence a discussion of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is moot at this time.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) – Claims 12, 19 and 20

The instant Office Action states that Claims 12, 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shen in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,158,861 by Wang et al., hereinafter referred to as Wang. As presented above, independent Claims 1 and 14 are allowable. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 12, 19 and 20 are also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim, and hence a discussion of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is moot at this time.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above listed amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejected claims is requested. Based on the arguments and amendments presented above, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1, 2, 6-14, 17-22 and 25-27 overcome the rejections of record. For reasons discussed herein, Applicants respectfully request that Claims 1, 2, 6-14, 17-22 and 25-27 be considered by the Examiner. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that new Claim 28 is also allowable. Therefore, allowance of Claims 1, 2, 6-14, 17-22 and 25-28 is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner have a question regarding the instant amendment and response, the Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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